gap between "haves" and "have-nots" in the country as well as for improving living standard of poor people in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank Indicators 2000 says that more rapid reductions in poverty will require improved policies in developing countries, especially those that are lagging farthest behind, as well as increased support from the industrialized countries for poor contries that adopt the necessary reforms.

(c) The Government are very much concerned about poverty and steps being taken in this regard have been outlined in Chapter 10 of the Economic Survey 1999-2000 and in Finance Minister's Budget speech for the year 2000-2001.

Housing Loan to Poor in the NE Region

4641 SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme/ programme to provide loan for housing to the poor persons living below the poverty line in hilly areas in the NER; and

(b) if so, the details of such persons in NER to whom the loan was granted by the nationalised/rural/cooperative banks during the last three years and till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No such Scheme formulated by Central Government is under implementation through banks.

Study of Fluctuations of Sensex

4642. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct any study on the frequent fluctuations and manipulation of sensex in BSE and NSE;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and